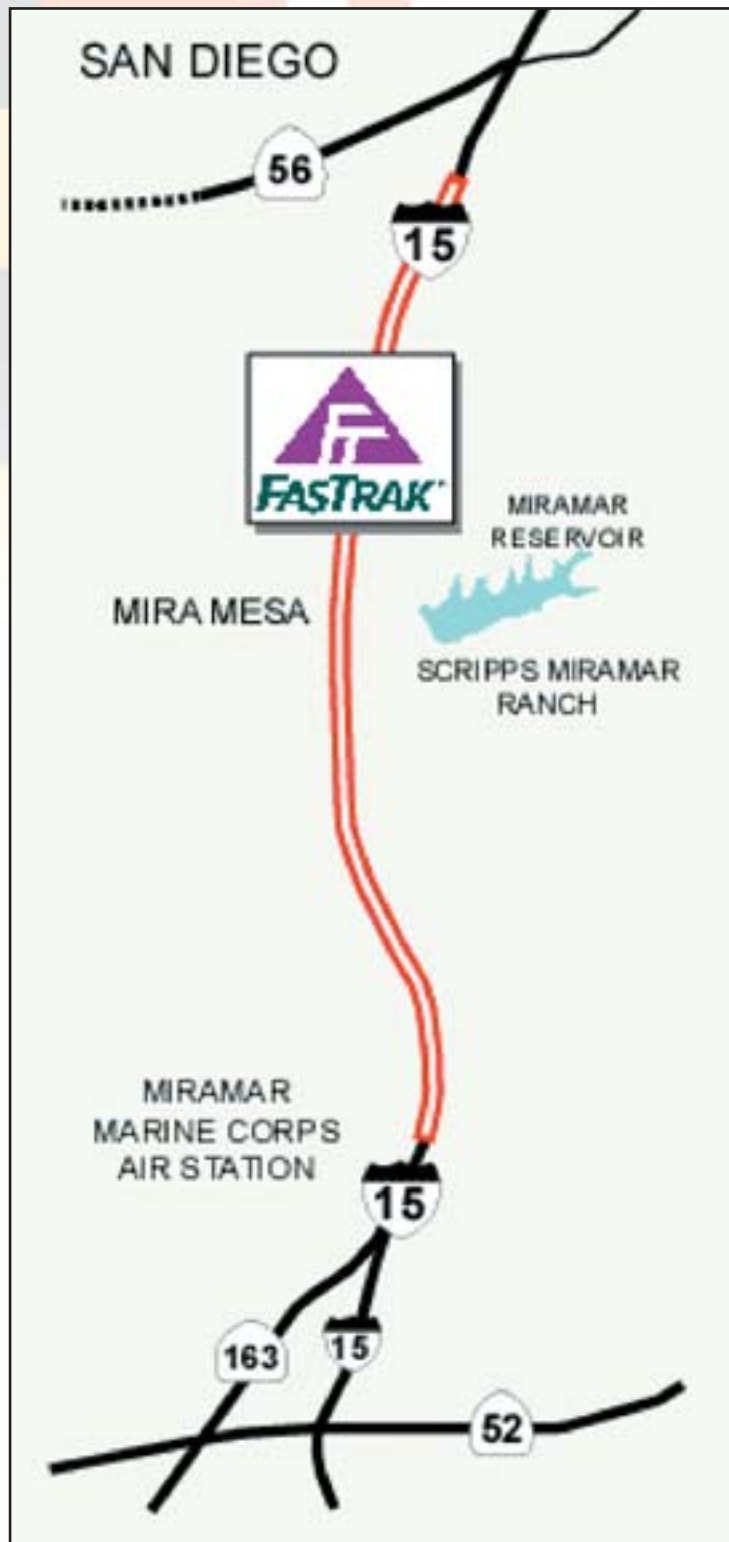




I-15 "FasTrak" Express Lanes in San Diego, California

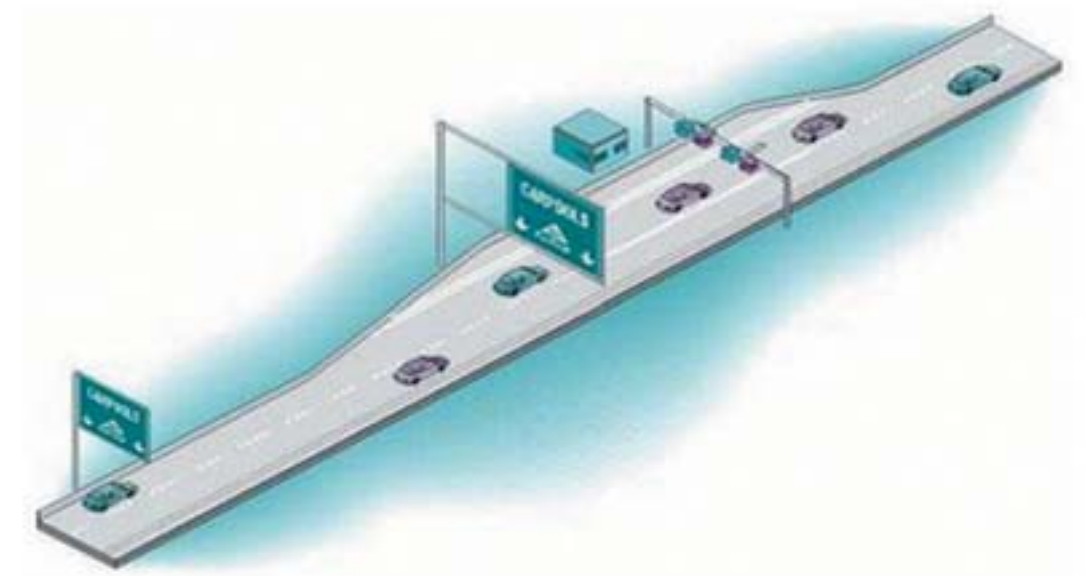


Two reversible lanes separated by concrete barriers, located in the median of an 8-mile stretch of I-15 between SR 56 and SR 163, in the northern suburbs of San Diego.

Faced with increasing congestion and limited funding, the FasTrak Lanes were implemented to allow Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs) to pay for access to the existing HOV lanes.

The fee is collected through an electronic transponder, automatically deducting charges from the user's account.

A *Dynamic Tolling System*, meaning the charge varies based on available capacity in the FasTrak lanes, with signs showing the current charge before drivers choose to enter the lanes.



Background:

- The I-15 HOV Facility first opened in 1988. Due to observed underutilization, the lanes were converted to ExpressPass toll lanes in 1996.
- The toll collection technologies have evolved over time since the opening, beginning with the issuance of \$50 monthly permits. In 1998, variably priced per-trip tolls replaced the flat fee and the lanes were converted to a 'FasTrak' facility to allow users from other toll facilities within California.
- This *Dynamic Tolling System* was the first of its kind in the world.

Pertinent Facts and Observations:

- On normal commute days, the toll ranges between \$.50 and \$4, but can be raised to \$8 in severe congestion.
- FasTrak lanes are operational during weekdays only.
- Total vehicles using the FasTrak lanes have increased by roughly 50% since the tolls were implemented in 1996.
- The I-15 FasTrak lanes generate approximately \$2 million annually that is used to pay for transportation improvements in the corridor, like the Inland Breeze Bus Service (right).



STRONG EVIDENCE OF OVERALL PUBLIC SUPPORT:

91% of users and 66% of non-users approve of the program, both agreeing that the FasTrak lanes reduce overall congestion within the corridor.

Quotes from the Commuting Public:

"All the stress of commuting is gone. That's so important to me...the safety benefit. Not having to be in that bumper-to bumper traffic makes all the difference to me."

"I thought that to use FasTrak you had to pay a fee each month. When I found out that it is pay as you go, I hopped right on it. It's very convenient to be able to choose when to use the lanes."

"I need to meet clients and visit branches and FasTrak helps bring structure to my schedule."